MATWATCH

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PEDICINO TO RETURN WITH "PRO WRESTLING '90"....Page 3

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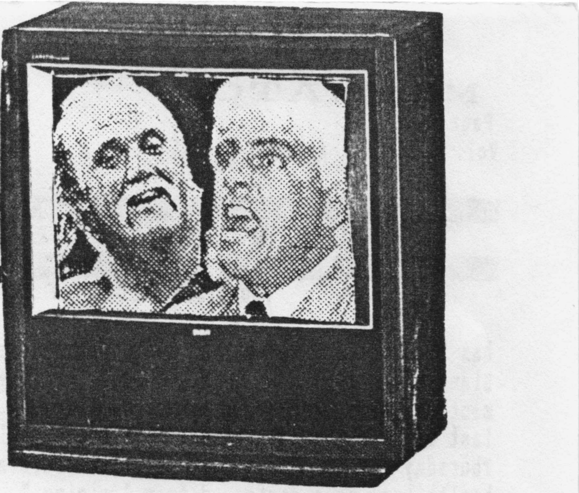
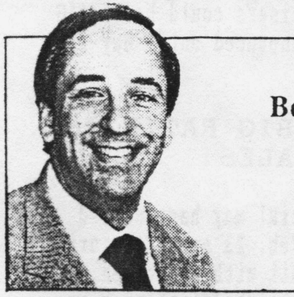


Second of Two Parts

DRUGS: "IT'S THE BIGGEST CANCER WE HAVE"

The news came Sunday night before last, just three hours after MATWATCH came off the press. It was a piece of information with which I take no pride in reporting. But Michael Hayes' 30-day suspension from World Championship Wrestling for a positive drug test was eerily coincidental with this two-part series.



Steve Beverly

Hayes' enforced hiatus came after reports were delivered from WCW's first company-wide test in late February. MATWATCH could not reach WCW senior vice president Jim Herd but we've learned company policy calls for a month-long suspension on first offense and dismissal for a second positive test. No word on the specific substance involved, though key sources say WCW was testing for marijuana and cocaine. The test had been announced. Further testing will be random.

The Hayes incident only reinforces a conversation I had not long ago with a former well-known figure in the industry, whom I'll call Richard (not his real name). The people he described will remain nameless for obvious reasons. But he made no bones about the drug problem in pro wrestling. "It's the biggest cancer we have," said the executive. "And what's an even bigger problem is: I don't know what to do about it."

This wasn't the first time I'd heard shock stories about drugs in wrestling. In 1974, former Georgia front office manager Doug Smith, who later refereed Terry Funk's NWA world title win over Jack Brisco, was frank with me about why a young competitor, who only a year earlier had scored upset wins over Bobby Shane and Bobby Duncum, had returned only in card-opening matches. "He was caught smoking marijuana the last time he was in here," said Smith. "You might say this is somewhat of a lesson."

In my 1985 six-part series on the mat world on WWAY-TV in Wilmington, N.C., blacklisted wrestler Eddy Mansfield openly discussed his view that cocaine was "killing the business." In Mansfield's on-air words: "Even guys who aren't making the big money in New York now are getting it. They go into the ring high. They drive down the roads high. I've been with them when they are." Off the record, Mansfield named enough names to start a mass suicide worse than Jim Jones' followers.

Richard told us a story of how drugs separated wrestlers into factions. "You had one group of known users. They all traveled together," said Richard. "The guys who were real family men, married with children, wouldn't have anything to do with them....wouldn't travel with them. I asked one guy why he wanted to drive his own car to the next town rather than ride with them. He told me right quick: 'Those guys are out of control. They drive through the middle of towns more than 90 miles an hour and over 100 on the road. I've got a wife and two kids and I don't want to end up dead.'"

One user, Richard told us, earned take-home pay of $40,000 over a year-long period. "Most people could live on that. But when you saw the guy, he always had on ragged clothes and so did his wife and kids. His furniture was all beaten up and eventually his telephone had to be taken out. He was always having to borrow money," said Richard.

Last Wednesday, I moderated a forum on drugs in this college community where drugs and alcohol are prevalent. Steve Smith, a noted mental health counselor in this region, said the telltale signs of users are the same whether adults or youth. "When you start seeing changes in personality, when you see abrupt mood swings, if dependability becomes a problem and, particularly, when someone you know is always short of cash and trying to borrow it, you can likely assume they have a problem," Smith said.

I asked Richard if he had tried to intervene with the drug users. He said, "Steve, I didn't know how deep the problem went. I didn't WANT to know. That stuff's illegal." A rather elementary answer, I thought, to a complex problem.

He may not have wanted to know the depth of the troubles but he knew enough to tell me his guys had a specific pickup location to get their supplies. And if that ran dry, they "got it from their friends who work for the big boys." But Richard declined to name the specific big boys.

"The problem is," said Richard, "if these guys ever do make the big time, they probably won't keep what they make because they'll spend more on drugs." Another standout name in wrestling has told me several times drugs can be faulted for an increasing number of no-shows on wrestling cards. "You have to understand," we were told, "some of these guys are making more money than they'll ever make the rest of their lives. They're in a business where they're told where to go, what time to be there, who they're supposed to deal with, where they're to stay and what time to be at the airport. Some of the younger ones have never had to do a lot of thinking for themselves and when they get messed up on drugs, they can't handle their own responsibilities."

One of the biggest stars in wrestling of recent years related to me how some performers in the six-figure range have virtually had a budget for drugs. A one-time megastar was estimated as spending $2,000 a week on cocaine during the 1984 wrestling explosion.

The Iron Sheik's and Hacksaw Jim Duggan's 1987 arrests while traveling together to a WWF show have been the most publicly celebrated cases. Tully Blanchard's reported explusion from Titan for an alleged drug test failure in November

(Continued on Page 2)

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

has been universally cussed and discussed as to whether Blanchard received a raw deal. Now, the Hayes case. Not to mention the Superstar Billy Graham/steroids story as detailed last week, which **ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT** spotlighted last Thursday---a tale of a once-powerful athlete whose career and health have been destroyed from "juicing."

It's one thing to point the finger at wrestlers and throw the book at them. I'll be the first to state, particularly in the realm of those who are projected role models, the responsibility is awesome and difficult to handle for young guys not used to the public eye. As a past news personality in local television in four cities, I can relate to the heady stuff of not being able to walk in a restaurant, go into a shopping mall, take out a date, or be seen in public with your wife without being stopped by admiring followers. I've seen people in the news business handle it with great grace and others develop severe psychological problems and turn to alcohol and drugs because they couldn't handle the limelight.

Peer pressure? Wrestlers are adults and old enough to know what kind of choices to make, if for nothing else than health reasons. But as counselor Kitty Niebuhr said at our local forum last week, "Peer pressure isn't the only reason people turn to drugs today. If you listen to young people, they tell you they do it simply `because it's there.'" Adults are no different when it comes to drugs.

I endorse testing, though I'll readily concede it draws a hairy line toward violating personal Constitutional rights. However, when a company is paying an employee a five or six-figure salary to perform a service, be one a wrestler or a business executive, it has the right to expect premium performance for its finances. Yes, I can name you television stations in the top 20 markets who test prospective employees as a condition of hiring.

However, if a company is going to test, it has a dual responsibility to those whom it tests. That's to provide or assist in counseling and proper rehabilitation. The NBA and Major League Baseball have stringent penalties for repeat drug offenders. But both leagues offer rehab programs for those who are willing to seek help.

Any group, be it Titan Sports, Turner Broadcasting or the NCAA, only deals with part of the issue when it hands out penalties. Any counselor will tell you a person must admit he needs help before any rehabilitation is successful. But when that cry for help comes, it becomes a personal, not just a corporate issue. **MATWATCH** has not been given a clear picture as to how, if at all, the major wrestling organizations deal with rehab but if an organized program of assistance is not available, one ought to be developed. Today would not be too soon.

I wish what happened to Michael Hayes last week had not happened because he is one of the truly entertaining personalities in this sport and I hope his difficulty is a short-lived one. I wish I had a Disney World answer to a catastrophic problem in the wrestling industry and others worldwide. I don't. Richard says drugs are "the biggest cancer in this business." They probably are. And I am frighteningly reminded there is no permanent cure for most cancer. But we haven't stopped trying to seek one.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

VENTURA, PIPER TO "TAG TEAM" IN ABC SERIES PILOT

HOLLYWOOD----TV GUIDE magazine reports Jesse Ventura is starring in a pilot for an ABC series vying for a slot on the 1990 fall schedule.

TAG TEAM would star Ventura as a pro wrestler-turned-cop with Piper to have a featured role. If the series sells, Ventura is expected to continue his WWF color commentator role but drop his analyst slot with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers radio broadcast team.

Piper would probably negotiate out of his WWF contract if **TAG TEAM** goes to series. But ABC programming executives will present **TAG TEAM** and its entire development slate to New York ad executives for an early look Wednesday and Thursday.

Only about a third of the networks' 80 pilots ever make air but a favorable viewing from advertisers could boost **TAG TEAM**. ABC's fall lineup will not be announced until May 19.

"MAIN EVENT" DRAWS BIG RATINGS WITH ADULT MALES

CHICAGO----NBC's ***THE MAIN EVENT*** special may have scored only lukewarm overall ratings but the Feb. 23 event featuring Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage was a big hit with adult men.

According to demographic ratings, published last week by **ELECTRONIC MEDIA** magazine, the WWF prime time live special finished 12th for the week among men between the ages of 18 and 49.

MAIN EVENT scored a 10.5 rating and 32 per cent share of the 18-49 males, finishing slightly below NBC's ***A DIFFERENT WORLD*** and just ahead of the NBC comedy series ***GRAND***. The wrestling special also scored higher ratings in the adult male category than any regular CBS series for the Feb. 19-25 week, with the **GRAMMY AWARDS** the only CBS program to outrate **MAIN EVENT**.

The strong showing with males probably ensures a fourth prime time special on NBC for the WWF in 1991.

GILBERT, DOUGLAS INJURED BUT EDDIE DOESN'T MISS

ROCK HILL, S.C.----The WCW injury list grew by two last week but one of the walking wounded didn't miss a date.

Shane Douglas, attempting a cross body block on Bobby Eaton, damaged his knee from a fall. Doctors have recommended Douglas, half of the Dynamic Dudes team, to stay out four weeks but insiders expect him to return in two to three.

Gilbert, who's been wrestling primarily on openers for recent WCW shows, missed a dropkick and began hyperventilating in the dressing room at Winthrop Coliseum, where the two NWA syndicated shows were being taped. He was taken to a local hospital for observation and was diagnosed with a bruised kidney. Doctors wanted him to lay off for a week but Gilbert was back in action the next night.

MATWATCH HOTLINE (205) 826-RING

Calling hours: 12 Noon Eastern to 12:30 a.m. Eastern Monday through Friday.

Pinfall Profile

JOE RETURNS WITH PW '90

ATLANTA----Treading into an area where past efforts have proven tenuous, Joe Pedicino is returning to the ring wars with a new series, PRO WRESTLING '90, tentatively scheduled to premiere March 31 and involving a complex series of business moves.

Pedicino, whose NWA contract expired Feb. 28, takes over operation of the old Southern Championship Wrestling, which Jerry Blackwell departed for the second time in January, and reverts the name to Georgia All-Star Wrestling. GAS will be part of the framework of PW'90, which will also involve as many independent promoters as Pedicino can sign.

"We're producing a different kind of show, something similar in format to PM MAGAZINE," said Pedicino last week. PM, which still runs in about 18 markets, involves half nationally produced feature stories and half locally-originated segments with local hosts fronting the show.

"The kind of show we'll be producing will offer 24 minutes on the national tape," said Pedicino, "and 24 minutes for the local promoter to insert his own material." But what about past efforts (PRO WRESTLING U.S.A., WORLD CLASS/AWA, i.e.) of promotional consortiums which have died from promoter wars over which star gets pushed on the TV shows?

"What's different here is the local promoter retains his own identity. On the national tape, we'll probably include two matches a week, along with a mat classic and a music video or some other kind of feature," said Pedicino. "We are assuring every promoter we will rotate the organizations featured weekly on the 24 national minutes. But that promoter still has 24 additional minutes to push his own guys, interviews and angles---so he or she never gets lost in the shuffle of another promotion."

Pedicino will host the national segments from an Atlanta studio. As a start, he's offering the shows to independent promoters for $100-150 a week. Already committed or expressing interest in PW'90 are ICW (Mario & Angelo Savoldi), Rocky Mountain Wrestling (Juda Williamson), Chris Love (Carolinas), independent groups in Virginia and Maryland, Oklahoma All-State Wrestling (Mike George) and Dennis Coraluzzo (New Jersey). Pedicino is also interested in Danny Wolf's new Hollywood Heavyweight Wrestling.

"It's a way for a promoter who perhaps has never had regular TV before to break in for a low cost," said Pedicino. "Once we get started, we hope to explore getting on some of the regional cable sports networks."

What if a promoter wants in but can't afford to produce his own TV inserts? "We'd offer him the Georgia All-Star show and still give him all the commercial inserts to push his own talent," said Pedicino.

He added: "What's further good about this is it means a promoter does not have to tape nearly as many matches to fill that 24 minutes of local. He can tape 10 matches and those will probably last him a month for his inserts, maybe even five weeks. If he was having to fill a full hour, he'd probably go through ten matches in two weeks. So the promoter gets a quality-produced national framework of a show and saves money for his local costs."

As for the Georgia group, Pedicino plans a big push for Nick Busich, who will be remarketed as The Powerlifter. Tony Zane will drop the masked Mr. Atlanta gimmick, don a University of Georgia football jersey and become The Linebacker. A tag team called the Dixie Mafia will also be part of the action, led by a yet-to-be-determined female manager. Does that mean Georgia All-Star will rely heavily on characterizations? "You bet it does," said Pedicino. "We're going to emphasize local guys because we don't have the budget to compete with the big promotions and don't want to. Realistically, we know if one of our guys happens to catch on, somebody's going to take him from us. So we might as well be as entertaining as we can to our local fans. If one of the guys gets picked up, I'm happy for him."

In today's economics of pro wrestling, Pedicino knows the odds. "A lot of people are going to say I'm crazy, just like they did when I started PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK," said Pedicino. "But if I'm going to do something crazy, which this probably is, I may as well have fun doing it." Production for PW'90 and Georgia All-Star will be handled by Pedicino's advertising agency, The Ad Factory. His business partner, Jim Best, will serve as figurehead commissioner of GAS.

MATWATCH ANNUAL

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: The 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL is a sellout. To those of you who have sent money for late orders, yours will be processed as quickly as possible and the annual will be mailed within the next 2 weeks. Please be patient. Thank you to so many, many of you for your kind response and we hope to be challenged to deliver an equally well-received product next year.

ONE YEAR AGO IN MATWATCH . . .

---Bill Dundee becomes CWF booker.

---PRIME TIME (3.5) and ALL-AMERICAN (3.2) top cable ratings. NWA MAIN EVENT and WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP each score 2.8.

---The Georgia Legislature adopts a Wrestling Commission bill but Gov. Joe Frank Harris won't sign it.

---Pacific Coast Wrestling Association folds.

---Roddy Piper sits in on the Gong Show panel.

---Terry Funk, on FCW: "What do you get when you breed a 300-pound tub of lard with a thick-tongued slob of a barmaid? You get a little Dustin."

HIGH HOPES: Early published forecasts in several trade magazines quote Titan Sports officials anticipating a 10% buy-rate for WRESTLEMANIA VI. As much as I believe it may hit a 7, there is no pay-per-view event in this country which can hit 10%, particularly with pay homes increasing to 13.4 million and with a $29.95 price tag.

FEED FUMBLES: The 2% buy-rate for WRESTLE WAR '90 appears to be holding but it probably wasn't helped that much in Chicago. Several Chicagoland cable systems reported losing the satellite feed after the second match.

COLUMBUS TV: I'll be at (or already have been to) Columbus Municipal Auditorium for NWA TV Tuesday night. But I don't expect a big house. Advances were poor last week, the only newspaper plug had been in my weekly column last Friday in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer and WORLD WIDE has been in three different time slots in the last 3 weeks.

WHY DO IT?: I'll repeat this plea to WCW....why run TV in Columbus? The town has been burned by too many TV tapings. It has not had a major, first-rate show since September 1988 and after paying $1 a week for Fred Ward's old local TV tapings until 1984, they won't pay $8 and $10 for 10 squash matches and four decent ones.

NOT MUCH HERE: The topliner in Columbus is Ric Flair vs. Ricky Morton, which will probably make TV and will be a decent match but isn't a top draw. Road Warriors-DOOMED will go in a Chicago street fight dark. Lex Luger has been given the night off, which further hurts.

HONOLULU CORNY: Don't start any rumors if you don't see Jim Cornette at an arena this week or early next. He's taking a week's vacation with wife Kelly in Hawaii. Corny in a grass skirt and tourist shirt?....could be a good angle.

INTERESTING DEMOS: Figure this one...THE MAIN EVENT on NBC finished 12th for the week with men 18-49. No surprise. In women, 18-49, it finished No. 60 in the Nielsens. No surprise either. But over the last four months, NWA POWER HOUR has been attracting more 18-49 women than men, which is a big plus for ad sales.

KIDS & TEENS: On the other hand, POWER HOUR doesn't do well with teens (no surprise---Fridays are date nights) and does "okay," according to TBS insiders, with kids. The traditional heavy hardcore male audience drifts to WCW. MAIN EVENT draws substantially more women but a majority of men.

WCW/PH SCHEDULE: If the baseball lockout ends, here is the approximate schedule for WCW and POWER HOUR during April. Beginning April 6, POWER HOUR would move to 10:20 (EST) unless the Braves are on the West Coast. April 7, WCW goes 6:05-7:35 (ET) and is cut to an hour at 6:05 on April 28.

THE SPECIAL: No ifs ands or buts, WCW gets a three-hour slot on April 14. But it's now looking doubtful if it will be live from the Sam Houston Coliseum. Reason: TBS is not budgeted for an additional live special and costs may be too high. But with the injury list, Jim Ross will have to be at his creative best to hold an audience until 9:05 p.m.

THE WINDY ONES: Windy City Wrestling has regained a slot on Chicago cable, even though production values are abominable. WC is in the midst of a tourney to determine challengers for its tag title.

GOOD SHOTS: On the other hand, no matter if you like the wrestling, I just saw my first LPWA show and the production values are first-rate, plus the half-hour format is more suitable for this group. Boni Blackstone taped ringside interviews for upcoming shows Monday through Wednesday.

II's RETIREMENT: In a couple of weeks, we'll feature an I REMEMBER... on the career of Mr. Wrestling II (Johnny Walker) as he approaches retirement to Hawaii. Joe Pedicino wants to do a big sendoff match with II on his new PRO WRESTLING '90 and II seems inclined to do it. Will he finally remove the mask after 17 years? Don't know. If they do it, it would be appropriate if they could find Tim Woods, the original Mr. Wrestling, and bring him back for color commentary.

NETWORKING: NWA PRO all over the Greensboro tube of late. It ran Sunday at 1 last week on WXII, opposite the ratings-powerful ACC basketball championship. WLTZ in Columbus, Ga., dumped WWF SUPERSTARS Saturday for a PERRY MASON movie.

CREDITING: A special kudos needs to go to NBC's GEORGE MICHAEL SPORTS MACHINE for being the first to break the story of Buster Douglas taking over for Mike Tyson as ref on THE MAIN EVENT. George scored the beat on his Feb. 18 show.

ON RADIO: Thanks for the response in New York and Baltimore from our recent radio stints. We'll be on again soon with John Arezzi on WNYG. March 3, Larry Katz had Ricky Steamboat and Johnny Ace on his WCBM Saturday night show.

BEST OF...: Arezzi is about to offer a BEST OF PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT audio cassette I would recommend, which will include excerpts of past shows, including the Jim Herd/Steamboat conversation over Ricky's contract, which drew a controversy last summer. We'll have ordering details soon.

STEAMIN' ALONG: As for Steamboat, in addition to making the small-town dates for George Scott and John Ringley, he and Bonnie are trying to get their gym moved into a new locale. The successful place is being hampered by the state taking away a number of parking spaces for road improvements.

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT: The ET story with Superstar Billy Graham last Thursday virtually followed the lines of the KNBC piece. But it did include an interview with Bruno Sammartino. Sources say edited was Graham's remark that Vince McMahon "doesn't have the guts to test for steroids." Either piece ought to be shown in every athletic program in the U.S.

DAVE'S BYLINE: Dave Meltzer on Pacific Sports Network's TV version of SPORTS BYLINE, U.S.A., with Ron Barr last Monday. Dave took a lot of "where are they now?" questions but one caller asked why Flyin' Brian would want to become a Horseman. Said Dave: "...to further his career."

LONG JOHN?: Finally, if I had to lay money, I'd bet Jim Herd's comments about Long John Silver and movie characters as wrestling names were strictly for publicity. I know p.r. and bringing reporters together to show them a $2 million TV edit suite won't draw one blot of ink. If I'm right, it worked because that story appeared all over the U.S. and all of you were talking about it....right?

TV TEMPO

Mar. 5-11

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS- Midscale.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Lanny Poffo d. Koko B. Ware w. help from Curt Hennig; Orient Express d. Tim Ketchum/Breakdance Young; Big Bossman d. Mike Sharpe; Randy Savage d. Jim Powers; Tito Santana d. Blubbery Rose; Earthquake Tenta d. Mark Ming; Hennig d. Jerry Monti; Sheepwackers d. Powers of Pain by DQ when Mr. Fuji interferes but Luke gets cane & bashes both P.O.P. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [WINDY CITY TAG TOURNEY] Wave Spies d. Dream Warriors; Super Maxx d. Joey Baglia by DQ when Col. DeBeers runs in; WOMEN'S TITLE: Andi Austin d. Anita Baker BOMB.

(LPWA) - Magnificent Mimi d. Lagana; Locomotion d. Nasty Girls; LPWA TITLE: Susan Sexton d. Jan Flame. RESTHOLD.

(AWA ALL-STAR) - John Nord d. Annihilator; Col. DeBeers d. Todd Becker; D.J. Peterson d. Frankie DeFalco; Destruction Crew d. Curtis Hughes/The Cobra; Hangman Killer d. Tommy Jammer when Killer switches places w. Psycho. After, Baron VonRaschke & Jammer beat up the Hangmen. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA) - Steve Austin d. Chris Adams by DQ when Chris creams Austin w. Austin's own knucks; Chris Youngblood d. Dutch Mantel w. trunks; J.J. Funk d. Gary Young, who loses mask; 6-MAN: Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee/Kerry Von Erich d. Jerry Lawler/Billy Travis/Terrence Garvin by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: (ANGLE) Jim Cornette bets Terry Funk if Midnights lose to Dynamic Dudes, he'll admit Funk is a better announcer; DOOMED d. Bill Lively/Brian Johnson; FUNK'S GRILL: Terry w. Teddy Long but Ron Simmons tells Funk he's no soul brother; Norman d. Zam Panzer; Road Warriors d. Larry Santo/Paul Drake; Dudes d. M Ex by DQ but Corny won't concede to Funk as show ends. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Steiners d. Bubba Rose/Joe Cezana; (REPLAY) Flair-Luger WW'90 finish; ANGLE: Road Warriors scare Teddy Long from ring; Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman d. Royal Family; Kevin Sullivan d. David Baker; Norm d. G.Q. Strother. RESTHOLD.

(SCW) - Nick Busich d. Tony Key; Ninja/Randy Rose d. Danny Moon/Mark Smith; Ted Allen d. Sugar Ray Lloyd; Dino Minelli d. Allen Horne; Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden d. Billy Starr/Mike Winner. BOMB.

(ICW) - Oneida d. Chris Michaels; The Hurricane d. Phillips; HANDICAP: Roadblock d. 4 jobbers; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. on Tom Prichard; ANGLE: Hurricane creams Vic Steamboat w. pineapple; Ray Oddyssey d. Tony Rumble by DQ. RESTHOLD.

(CWA) - [From USWA]: Lawler/Travis/Garvin vs. Dundee/Jarrett/Von Erich; Travis d. Ray Evans; Jarrett d. David Hinkle; Jeff Gaylord/Austin d. J.J. Funk/Chico Torres; Southern Rockers d. David Rapp/Dog of War. RESTHOLD.

(CNWA/TSN) - Goldie Rogers d. Brian Wilson; Jason Anderson d. Dr. Zhivago; Brad Young d. J.T. Stringer; Akam Singh d. Kevin Rosney; Randy Thatcher/Ron Ritchie d. Duke Myers/Great Gama when Ritchie ducks & Kerry Brown decks Gama; THROW-IN-TOWEL MATCH: Angel of Death d. Steve DiSalvo when Bulldog Bob Brown grabs & tosses in DiSalvo's towel during ref bump; ANGLE: Myers/K. Brown turn on Gama after tag match. RESTHOLD.

(WVEU SUPERSTARS) - Samuel F. Kent namedrops celebrities who have been to his "ranch:" Herschel Walker, Earl Campbell, Skandor Akbar and Clint Eastwood. He also takes credit for the idea of Larry Hagman's WHO SHOT J.R.? episode of DALLAS.

(PWF) - Eric Embry d. Tim Parker; Tommy Rogers d. Rockin' Ricky; Nasty Boys d. Wild Thing/Dennis Knight; Buddy Landell d. Coconut Kid; Hurricane Walker d. Hollywood Rob; Steve Keirn d. Bounty Hunter by DQ when Buddy jumps Keirn & hits ref. But Bounty gets hit with Landell clothesline as Keirn ducks. Bounty turns on Rev. Billy C. Wirtz. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Jake Roberts d. Rose; Hennig d. Monti; Tenta d. Ming; Rick Rude d. Pez Whatley; Jim Duggan d. Sharpe; Ultimate Warrior d. Brooklyn Brawler. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[SUPERSTARS]: Hulk Hogan d. Dino Bravo but Tenta elbows and splashes after. Ultimate Warrior saves but Hogan refuses Ult's help. Ult crisscrosses but holds off clotheslining Hogan before leaving; Martel d. Lou Spiccoli; Akeem d. Riki Ataki; Bossman d. Sharpe; Other winner: Rhythm & Blues; UPDATE: Fuji sells Barbarian to Bobby Heenan & Warlord to Slick; WM REPORT: Rona Barrett as WM6 guest. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Eddie Gilbert d. Hacksaw Higgins; WNN: Gordon Solie plugs Apr. 26 Meadowlands show; R&R Ex d. Bob Cook/Nasty Ned Brady; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette & T. Long impersonate Don Cornelius; NWA WORLD TITLE: Flair d. Tommy Rich by knocking Tommy's foot off ropes. DRAW.
[WCW]: R&R Ex d. Cezana/Fargo; Sullivan/Cactus Jack d. Santo/Baker; REPLAY: Sullivan-Cactus/Norman-Rotunda angle last week; Freebirds d. William Bell/Drake; ANGLE: R&R chase 'Birds from set; DOOMED d. Lively/Johnson; Rotunda d. Cook; Royal Family d. Panzer/Strother; Samoans d. Robbie Idol/Keith Hart; Gilbert/Rich d. B. Rose/Brady; (U.S. TAG TITLE) Pillman/Zenk d. M Ex by DQ when Corny uses racket, then M Ex Veg-O-Matics Pillman's throat and Corny keeps driving racket into throat until R&R Ex finally save. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: (Key Match) Robert Gibson d. Jimmy Garvin. NO RATING.

(LUCHA LIBRE/GALAVISION) - Rossy Moreno/Rosa Maria d. Relevos Sencillos; Jerry Estrada/Pierroth Jr./Fuerza Guerrera d. Angel Texaca/El Texano/El Dandy; Solomon Grundy/Ringo Mendoza/Atlantis d. Herodes/Pirata Morgan/Gran Markus Jr.; Ken (Fabuloso Blondy) Timbs/Policia de Los Angeles I & II d. Rayo de Jalisco Jr./El Satanico/Popitekus. POWERSLAM.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Buddy Landell, PWF: "The Bahamas were made so when the people of Florida flush their toilets, they'd have a place for the water to go." 2. Cactus Jack, WCW: "Don't think

because I wear a different pair of moccasins, the leather's any cheaper. 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Unlawful means it's against the law. Illegal means it's a sick bird." 4. Bulldog Bob Brown/Joe Ayala, CNWA: (BBB) "You owe the people of Calgary an apology." (JA) "For having you on the show?" 5. Ayala, CNWA: "Brown, you couldn't come up with a countermove for checkers." 6. Jim Cornette, WCW: "In Altoona, they'd be enthusiastic over a grilled hot tiddly winks game." 7. Boni Blackstone/Samuel F. Kent, WVEU: (SK) "Boni, you're not?" (BB) "I am. I found out last week." (SK) "When are we gonna start calling you Mommy?" (BB) "I'm going out of town, SAMMY!" 8. Ayala, CNWA: "If Brown's asking for help, there's a reason. He's a charity case." 9. Heenan, PTW: "Sapphire's losing weight. I've noticed one less dot." 10. Jim Ross/Cornette, WCW: (JC) "...knee across the pre-frontal lobe." (JR) "You must have graduated valedictorian from the Gordon Solie School of Broadcasting."

11. Marc Lowrance, USWA, on Jeff Jarrett's blood: "I don't know if Jeff Jarrett is somebody we can put on television." 12. Kent, WVEU, on Skandor Akbar: "He brought his camels up to my ranch to race. When it was over, we wouldn't let the camels drink out of the swimming pool. You never know where them camels' lips have been." 13. Jesse Ventura, WWF, on Greg Valentine's black hair: "He looks like the late Roy Orbison." 14. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO, on Norman: "His face looks like the back door of Studio 54." 15. Lance Russell, NWA PRO: "Michael, you're always protesting. You protest the Rock & Roll Express being alive." 16. Frank Sisson/Brown, CNWA: (FS) "We're looking to build the promotion up." (BBB) "With the help of Bulldog Bob Brown." (FS) "That's what worries me. You could be the downfall." 17. Dave Meltzer, SPORTS BYLINE, U.S.A.: "Maybe Jim Herd was trying to get publicity when he said he wanted to make Long John Silver into a wrestler. I hope so." 18. Ayala/Brown, CNWA: (JA) "My ears hurt from referring to Bulldog Bob running at the mouth." (BBB) "Funny, your face is killing me." 19. Ventura, WWF, on Rhythm & Blues: "Their names are gonna be synonymous with guns and roses." 20. Brown, CNWA, on Ed Whalen's absence: "TSN Sports wanted a younger fellow, so here I am." 21. Cornette, WCW, on Rotunda's Captain's hat: "It makes him look like Gilligan. Norman already looks like the Skipper."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Lex Luger, WWW, to WOMAN: "It takes more than a tight dress, a ton of makeup and silicone to be a champion." Sisson, CNWA: "Ed Whalen adds a lot of class to show. Bulldog Bob, you add NO class." 2. Dave Meltzer, SPORTS BYLINE USA, to caller asking why Brian Pillman would join 4 Horsemen: "...to further his career."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Meltzer, SPORTS BYLINE, to caller asking who'd win between Flair-Hogan: "Who'd win a match between Superman and Batman?" 2. Ron Barr, SPORTS BYLINE, on Bushwackers: "Are they of this planet?" 3. Lisa Simpson, THE SIMPSONS, to father Homer: "You're sending us to a doctor who advertises on pro wrestling???" 4. Sisson, CNWA, to Brown: "Is it better to be a has-been than a never was?" 5. Ron Simmons, WWW: "Do you think just because your name's Funk, that means you've got soul?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE TOWEL BOY (Joe Ayala on Bulldog Bob Brown). 2. DISCO NORMAN (Norm on self). 3. 4. and 5. THE SOULBLASTER, MAN OF 1000 NAMES and SUGAR RAY LONG (Teddy on himself).

BEST PICTURES - 1. WWF, Valentine's greasy black hair. 2. Ultimate Warrior holding back on clotheslining Hogan. 3. NWA PRO, Norman impersonating Hayes. 4. LPWA, Magnificent Mimi flying tackle. 5. NWA PRO, Teddy Long running from Road Warriors. 6. PTW, Luke Williams bashing P.O.P. w. Fuji's cane. 7. PH, Gilbert bashing Higgins leg on ringpost. 8. USWA, Jerry Lawler's wife holding USWA title belt. 9. WCW, Cactus over-top clothesline on Santo.

WORST PICTURE - USWA, Jeff Jarrett bloodbath.

BEST AUDIO - NWA PRO, Norman taunting Hayes.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Joe Ayala, CNWA: "The figure-4 leglock, made famous by Dory Funk Jr." 2. Gordon Solie, PH: "pre-frontal LOBROTOMY." 3. Solie, PH: "...Wrestle WARS '90." 4. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "Jimmy Jam's at Trump Plaza consoling IVONA."

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - "DISCRETIONARILY" (Russell, NWA PRO).

BEST IMPERSONATION - Cornette & Long, PH, doing Don Cornelius' "Love, Peace and SOOOOOUL!"

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Frank (The Tank) Nelson, WINDY CITY: "...bigger they are, the harder they fall." 2. Michael Hayes, WWW: "...nice guys finish last."

BOO AWARDS - 1. NWA, for much too violent BLUE STEEL movie ads during syndicated shows. 2. WWF and NWA, for those hideous HOUSE PARTY movie ads. I'm sorry. These shows air on Saturday mornings in many markets and that kind of advertising is as bad for kids as some of the criticized angles.

TUBE TALK

CONNIE CHUNG again failed to run the NWA piece Saturday and her show is pre-empted this week....TBS most unhappy about the March 3 dog collar angle with Sullivan & Sawyer. I thought it was pretty good, though I've seen it with Sawyer many times. However, I concur with TBS bleeping all that devil worship crap Kevin spouts.... Saturday's Hogan-Warrior angle was well done on SUPERSTARS. It built mystery and didn't give away too much....The Dallas/Memphis fans-are-fools saga goes on. Jimmy Valiant as USWA champ in Memphis while Jerry Lawler keeps the belt in Dallas is asinine.

Flair sold his tail off on POWER HOUR match vs. Tommy Rich, enough so Rich scored 11 two-counts. But the finish stunk. Flair can easily handle Tommy, so why have him win from a simple collison, then screwjob it by knocking Tommy's foot off the ropes?....Wayne Bloom/Mike Enos as masked Minnesota Wrecking Crew are "on loan" from Verne Gagne. They will still do AWA TV tapings....Jimmy Garvin subbed for Michael Hayes on NWA PRO color at Rock Hill but Steve Casey as Garvin's sub partner??? Has Steve taken a dose of charisma?

Abdullah the Butcher headed in as partner of Norman...Why is NWA still loading up on tags when it sorely needs to build more singles?....How to get attention for Abdullah: show he can talk after all these years & give him a mail seg called DEAR ABBY....Tor Berg's LPWA goes into broadcast syndication this fall. Already signed is WXIA, Atlanta's NBC station. ....Joe Ayala subbed for Ed Whalen on TSN's CNWA show....WWF tapes its next SNME April 23 at the Erwin Center at the University of Texas. It airs April 28....Expect Hart Foundation to get a shot at the WWF champs, post-WM6. FSB.

With the demise of the Stampede promotion, where will Owen Hart, Larry Cameron and the British Bulldogs wind up? Who do you feel is the best tag team in the sport today? My vote goes to the Steiners over the Rockers. Whatever happened to King Kong Bundy and Bam Bam Bigelow?

JOHN RIORDAN
BELMONT MA

(FSB: 1. Owen will probably work Japan and could easily end back up at Titan but I don't know why the NWA isn't approaching him again, if they haven't. 2. I'd probably give a slight nod to the Rockers but Scott and Rick are literally killing guys in the ring. I'd take Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas no. 3. 3. Bundy does occasional indie work and has several commercial endorsements. Bigelow is working Japan and U.S. indies but he's negotiating another deal at the moment.)

I'd like to think Flair will keep the (NWA world) belt but I'll probably lose on that wish. I just don't care for (Lex) Luger and it saddens me to think he may get the title. I guess it's unavoidable, though.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

A big thumbs down to WRESTLE WAR '90. I think I enjoyed the whole show but the end killed it. That was the worst ending in PPV history. The Flair-Luger match was going great. Each wrestler was doing what they do best. Terry Funk and Jim Ross were also at their best. Then came that stupid ending. First off, why risk further injury to Sting? Is Flair that dumb? I don't think so but this match didn't prove he was too bright. Flair made himself look like a fool dependent on others. Everybody that I was with were all in to the match. When it was over they said, "That's why Hogan's better."

KEVIN KING
BRONX NY

Roddy Piper is not hot! For some reasons, he seems "off" these past weeks. Is Vince Jr. finally realizing that he had his best years in 1983-87? Adrian Adonis is not around for Piper to beat on any more. Let's go, Piper, hang it up. I don't know what is worse: Piper's incessant babbling or Rhodes' manager, Sapphire.

MIKE STACK
BRANCHBURG NJ

I've gotta give WRESTLE WAR a thumbs up, even if the main event and the Rock & Roll/Midnights were all that were really impressive. But I enjoyed Cactus' bumps and Ross and Funk made the bad matches at least have some kind of meaning.

ROGER THORPE
DANVILLE VA

YOU SAID IT!!!

Are you sure Dusty didn't book that finish at WRESTLE WAR? Of all things---it almost reminded me of the Road Warriors/ Tully & Arn ending at STARRCADE '87.

ANTHONY ALLEN
JAMESTOWN NY

What was George Scott's position at the WWF back in 1984-85 and who was he instrumental in bringing in? Why was he fired? Now that Eddie Gilbert has renewed his contract, is there any chance he will be pushed? Any possibility Dory Funk Jr. would be brought in and team with his brother Terry? What is the real story on David Crockett's departure as announcer? Did the folks at TBS get any information from the newsletters about his being unpopular among hardcore fans?

FLOYD PERRY JR.
STOCKTOKN CA

(FSB: 1. Booker but Vince McMahon Jr. footed the bill to bring in Hogan, Piper, Valentine, the Briscos, Steamboat and all the big names. Scott was axed because Vince wasn't happy with the discipline or direction of the group. 2. I hope Eddie will be pushed. It's a tremendous waste leaving him at the bottom of a card. 3. I don't look for Dory. 4. David was moved to a building scout job with WCW because TBS felt it wanted more professional announcers on the shows. TBS execs read newsletters before David was dumped from the air but sheets were not the driving force behind the decision.)

What happened to Rick Stuart? Did he die of natural causes? Or was he killed ins ome fashion?

BILL MOFFITT JR.
ALTA LOMA CA

(FSB: Bill, Rick died of complications from meningitis last year.)

Will Terry Taylor be salvageable after his WWF stint? What do you think of the NWA creating a farm system with a minor promotion, such as Florida or Oregon, with occasional appearances on their cards by NWA wrestlers?

PAUL J. MacARTHUR
CAMILLUS NY

(FSB: 1. Yes. Properly booked, you can remake almost any image in wrestling, no matter what critics say. 2. If they don't develop a minor league situation, they'll again find themselves in the plague of injuries and groping for guys to move in. A minor league could at least help that situation.)

Why can't the NWA and Paul E. Dangerously settle their differences? The NWA needs him now, with all the injuries, and he needs the NWA.

BOB CARLSON
MONTPELIER VT

RATINGS RAP

WWF SETS SYNDIE RECORD; PRIME TIME BACK ON TOP

The World Wrestling Federation's package of syndicated shows broke an all-time rating record for the week ending Feb. 18, with a massive 12.2. The week featured a Dusty Rhodes-Rick Martel match on CHALLENGE and Brutus Beefcake-Rick Rude on SUPERSTARS. The NWA, which claimed a rare victory for the week ending Feb. 11, slipped back to just below its season's average, with a 7.7.

USA's PRIME TIME WRESTLING claimed its second cable ratings win in five weeks with its 3.7 rating and 5.7 share Monday night, opposite primariy rerun programming on major networks. The PTW win capped a week which saw the NWA POWER HOUR revive from its pounding at the hands of THE MAIN EVENT and TBS' other two series again top 3 ratings.

POWER HOUR was back up 63% from the previous week's 1.6 and was back solidly over a million homes. NWA MAIN EVENT, headed by an Arn Anderson-Scott Steiner matchup, powered to a 3.4 rating while Saturday's WCW scored a 3.2 but that's the second straight drop from the sizzling 4.0 of Feb. 17.

ALL-AMERICAN suffered a drop from its jump to a 3.1 last week, yet still improved over its week 2.4 average of January.

CABLE

Week Ending March 5	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/5)	3.7	5.7	1.92 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/4)	3.4	7.0	1.84 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 3/3)	3.2	7.0	1.73 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 3/2)	2.6	4.0	1.40 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 3/4)	2.6	6.9	1.35 million

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending Feb. 18)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	12.2/252	9.3/252	9.8
NWA	7.7/176	10.1/173	7.9

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

RICKY SHORT, Rt. 2, Box 297, Gretna VA 24578 wants to find tapes of the AWA Team Challenge Series and of Mid-South shows prior to 1984.

ANGLE, Bill Kunkel's wacky publication, is available from 330 S. Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas NV 89107. It's $2.50 an issue. Lots of great cartoons in the current issue.

MICROLEAGUE's WWF WRESTLING GAME, designed by Subway Software (Kunkel, Arnie Katz & Joyce Worley) is out for IBM and AMIGA computers. Write Bill at the above address for more info and check your favorite computer/video store.

BILLIE JESSEE, 1000 Stonegate Rd., S-15, Kingsport TN 37660, publishes a bulletin for his NIKITA KOLOFF FAN CLUB. I don't have a membership price but write Billie for info.

WRESTLING STYLE is a ring perspective weekly by JIM DOUGH. It's 75 cents an issue. Write Jim at 6024 Cipriano Rd., Lanham MD 20706.

JOE MANNION, 500 Lafayette Ave., Prospect Park PA 19076, is looking for a tape of Lou Albano's recent appearance with his son on WWOR's JOE FRANKLIN SHOW.

DAVID HIGGINS is promoting for the DYERSBURG WRESTLING FEDERATION in Tennessee. His shows are charity affairs for a "drug-free America." For more info, call David at (901) 627-9587 or 286-2829.

(More SHOPPERS NETWORK next week.)

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